Less Funds for basic education

4404. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article captioned "Experts regret less funds for basic education" appeared in the media recently ;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to bridge the huge literacy gap in the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Ninth Plan Period, Rs. 15044 crores was spent on Elementary and Adult Education. An allocation of Rs. 30,000 crores has been provided for the Tenth Five Year Plan for Elementary and Adult Education, which is approximately double the Ninth Plan expenditure. Efforts are being made to obtain additional funds.

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched by the Department, for children in the 6-14 age group, seeks to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) by the end of 2010. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) programme aims at making non-literate persons in 15—35 age group, literate.

Number of students in Colleges/Universities

†4405. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ascertained the total number of students admitted in the Universities and the Colleges affiliated to them during the year 2001-2002 ; and

(b) if so, the total number thereof and out of them, what was the number of students studying in Graduation, Post-Graduation, M.Phil., Ph.D., Diploma and Degree Certificate Courses separately?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.